

## ~WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (278)

- Linear Measures
- Measures Of Capacity
- Other Dry And Liquid Measures
- Weights

· Archaeological evidence, the Bible itself, and other ancient writings provide the basis for assigning approximate values to the various weights and measures used by the Hebrews.

### · Linear Measures

· The **linear measures** employed by the Hebrews were evidently derived from the human body.

· Since the ratio in length or width of one part of the body to another can be determined, it is possible to ascertain the relationship of one **linear measurement** to another, and based on archaeological evidence pointing to a cubit of about 44.5 centimeters (17.5 inches), approximate modern values can be given to the **linear measurements** mentioned in the Bible.

· The chart that follows presents the relationship of the Hebrew linear measures to one another as well as their approximate modern equivalents.

**See Also CUBIT**

### Linear Measures

### Modern Equivalent

<b>1 fingerbreadth</b>	<b>= 1/4 handbreadth</b>	<b>1.85 centimeters (0.72 inches)</b>
<b>1 handbreadth</b>	<b>= 4 fingerbreadths</b>	<b>7.4 centimeters (2.9 inches)</b>
<b>1 span</b>	<b>= 3 handbreadths</b>	<b>22.2 centimeters (8.75 inches)</b>
<b>1 cubit</b>	<b>= 2 spans</b>	<b>44.5 centimeters (17.5 inches)</b>
<b>1 long cubit*</b>	<b>= 7 handbreadths</b>	<b>51.8 centimeters (20.4 inches)</b>
<b>1 short cubit</b>		<b>38 centimeters (15 inches)</b>
<b>1 reed</b>	<b>= 6 cubits</b>	<b>2.67 meters (8.75 feet)</b>
<b>1 long reed</b>	<b>= 6 long cubits</b>	<b>3.11 meters (10.2 feet)</b>

\* Possibly the same as the **former cubit** of;

- And these things Solomon laid as a foundation for building the house of the true God, the length in **cubits** by the former measurement being sixty cubits, and the width twenty cubits.
- And these things Solomon laid as a foundation for building the house of the true God, the length in **cubits** by the former measurement being sixty cubits, and the width twenty cubits. (2 **Chronicles 3:3**)
- There is some uncertainty about the **measure** designated by the **Hebrew** term *go'medh*, appearing solely at;
- Meanwhile Ehud made a sword for himself, and it had two edges, its length being a **cubit**. Then he girded it underneath his garment upon his right thigh. (**Judges 3:16**)
- With reference to the length of Ehuds sword. In numerous translations this word is rendered, **cubit**. **KJ, LE, JB, NW, RO, RS**
- Some scholars believe that *go'medh* denotes a short cubit roughly corresponding to the distance from the elbow to the knuckles of the clenched hand. This would be about 38 centimeters (15 inches). **NE**
- Other **linear measurements** mentioned in the Scriptures are the fathom (1.8 m)(6 feet), the *sta'di-on*, or furlong (185 meters)(606.75 feet), and the mile, probably the Roman mile (1,479.5 meters)(4,854 feet). The word, **journey**, is often used in connection with a general distance covered.
- With that he took his brothers with him and went chasing after him for a distance of seven days **journey** and caught up with him in the mountainous region of Gilead. (**Genesis 31:23**)
- And they will certainly listen to your voice, and you must come, you and the older men of Israel, to the king of Egypt, and you men must say to him, Yehowah the God of the Hebrews has come in touch with us, and now we want to go, please, a journey of three days into the wilderness, and we want to sacrifice to Yehowah our God. (**Exodus 3:18**)
- And they will certainly listen to your voice, and you must come, you and the older men of Israel, to the king of Egypt, and you men must say to him, Yehowah the God of the Hebrews has come in touch with us, and now we want to go, please, a journey of

three days into the wilderness, and we want to sacrifice to Yehowah our God. ([Exodus 3:18](#))

- After that they pulled away from Pihahiroth and went passing through the midst of the sea to the wilderness and kept marching a three-day journey in the wilderness of Etham and took up camping at Marah. ([Numbers 33:8](#))
- A days journey was perhaps 32 kilometers (20 miles) or more, while a Sabbath days journey appears to have been about 1 kilometers (0.6 miles).
- Keep praying that your flight may not occur in wintertime, nor on the Sabbath day. ([Matthew 24:20](#))
- Then they returned to Jerusalem from a mountain called the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, being a Sabbath day's journey away. ([Acts of Apostles 1:12](#))

**See Also FATHOM**

**See Also FURLONG**

**See Also JOURNEY**

**See Also MILE.**

## **.. Measures Of Capacity**

- Based on jar fragments bearing the designation bath in ancient Hebrew characters, the capacity of the bath measure is reckoned at approximately 22 liters (5.81 gallons). In the charts that follow, dry and liquid **measures** are figured in relation to the bath measure. The relationship of one **measure** to another, when not stated in the Bible, is drawn from other ancient writings.

**See Also BATH**

**See Also CAB**

**See Also COR**

**See Also HIN**

**See Also HOMER**

**See Also LOG**

**See Also OMER**

**See Also SEAH**

**Dry Measures**

**Modern Equivalent**

<b>1 cab</b>	= 4 logs	1.22 liters (2.2 dry pints)
<b>1 omer</b>	= 1 $\frac{4}{5}$ cabs	2.2 liters (2 dry quarts)
<b>1 seah</b>	= 3 $\frac{1}{3}$ omers	7.33 liters (6.66 dry quarts)
<b>1 ephah</b>	= 3 seahs	22 liters (20 dry quarts)
<b>1 homer</b>	= 10 ephahs	220 liters (200 dry quarts)

### Liquid Measures

### Modern Equivalent

<b>1 log</b>	= $\frac{1}{4}$ cab	0.31 liters (0.66 pints)
<b>1 cab</b>	= 4 logs	1.22 liters (2.58 pints)
<b>1 hin</b>	= 3 cabs	3.67 liters (7.75 pints)
<b>1 bath</b>	= 6 hins	22 liters (5.81 gallons)
<b>1 cor</b>	= 10 baths	220 liters (58.1 gallons)

### • Other Dry And Liquid Measures

- The **Hebrew** word '*is-sa-rohn*', meaning, **tenth**, often denotes a tenth of an ephah.
- And a **tenth part of an ephah measure** of fine flour moistened with the fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a drink offering of the fourth of a hin of wine, will go for the first young ram. (**Exodus 29:40**)
- And on the eighth day he will take two sound young rams and one sound female lamb, in its first year, and three tenths of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering moistened with oil and **one log measure** of oil. (**Leviticus 14:10**)
- And as its grain offering two tenths of an ephah of fine flour moistened with oil, as an offering made by fire to Yehowah, a restful odor, and as its drink offering a fourth of a hin of wine. (**Leviticus 23:13**)
- Out of your dwelling places you should bring two loaves as a wave offering. Of two tenths of an ephah of fine flour they should prove to be. They should be baked leavened, as first ripe fruits to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 23:17**)
- Out of your dwelling places you should bring two loaves as a wave offering. Of two tenths of an ephah of fine flour they should prove to be. They should be baked leavened, as first ripe fruits to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 23:17**)

- According to **Targum Jonathan**, the six **measures** of barley, literally, six of barley, mentioned at;
- And he went on to say; Bring the cloak that is on you, and hold it open. So she held it open, and he proceeded to measure out six measures of barley and to place it upon her, after which he went into the city. (**Ruth 3:15**)
- Are six seah **measures**. On the authority of the **Mishnah** and the **Vulgate**, the **Hebrew** term *le'thekh* is understood to designate a half homer.
- And I proceeded to purchase her for myself for fifteen silver pieces and a homer measure of barley and a half-homer of barley. (**Hosea 3:2**)

**AS, KJ, DA, JP, LE, NW [BAVA MEZIA 6:5] ftn and appendix II, D, translated by H. Danby].** The **Greek** terms *me-tre-tes'* appearing in the plural at;

- As it was, there were six stone water jars sitting there as required by the purification rules of the Jews, each able to hold two or three liquid **measures**. (**John 2:6**)
- And rendered, **liquid measures** and *ba'tos*, found in the plural at;
- He said; A hundred bath measures of olive oil. He said to him, Take your written agreement back and sit down and quickly write fifty. (**Luke 16:6**)
- Are equated by some with the **Hebrew** bath **measure**. The **Greek** *khoi'nix*, **quart**, is commonly thought to be slightly more than a **liter** or a little less than a **U.S. dry quart**.
- And when he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say; Come! And I saw, and, look! A black horse, and the one seated upon it had a pair of scales in his hand. (**Revelation 6:5**)
- And I heard a voice as if in the midst of the four living creatures say; A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the olive oil and the wine. (**Revelation 6:6**)

.. **Weights**

- Archaeological evidence suggests that a shekel weighed approximately 11.4 grams (0.403 ounces avdp)(0.367 ounces troy). Using this as a basis, the chart that follows sets forth the relationship of the Hebrew weights and their approximate modern equivalent.

## Weights

## Modern Equivalent

<b>1 gerah</b>	= 1/20 shekel	0.57 grams (0.01835 ounces tr)
<b>1 bekah</b>		
<b>(half shekel)</b>	= 10 gerahs	5.7 grams (0.1835 ounces troy)
<b>1 shekel</b>	= 2 bekahs	11.4 grams (0.367 ounces troy)
<b>1 mina</b>		
<b>(maneh)</b>	= 50 shekels	570 grams (18.35 ounces troy)
<b>1 talent</b>	= 60 minas	34.2 kilograms (75.5 lb avdp; (91.75 pounds troy) 1101 ounces

- The **Greek** word *li'tra* is generally equated with the Roman pound (327 grams)(11.5 ounces avdp). The mina of the **Christian Greek Scriptures** is reckoned at 100 drachmas.

- This would mean that the **Greek** mina weighed 340 grams (10.9 ounces troy) and the Greek talent, 20.4 kilograms (44.8 pounds avdp) (54.5 pounds troy)(654 ounces troy).

See Also MINA

See Also MONEY

See Also SHEKEL

See Also TALENT

See Also DRACHMA

- The Hebrews designated the size of a plot of land either by the amount of seed needed to sow it.
- And if it is some of the field of his possession that a man would sanctify to Yehowah, the value must then be estimated in proportion to its seed, if a homer of barley seed, then at fifty shekels of silver. (**Leviticus 27:16**)
- And he went on to build the stones into an altar in the name of Yehowah and to make a trench, of about the area sowed with two seah measures of seed, all around the altar. (**1 Kings 18:32**)
- Or by what a span of bulls could plow in a day.

- **And the first slaughter with which Jonathan and his armor-bearer struck them down amounted to about twenty men within about half the plowing line in an acre of field. (1 Samuel 14:14)**  
**Footnote**